



Biodynamic farming practices: between farm individuality and circular economy



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...can an Organic-Biodynamic Farm,
create a more Human Economy
in the Robotic Era?

Our Experience at «Le Due Torri»
Spello - Umbria - Italy

www.leduetorribio.com



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The farm

- ❖ 200 ha. in the Umbrian valley: the heart of Italy
- ❖ organic and Demeter certified crops: cereals, legumes, extra virgin olive oil and forage
 - ❖ 200 Chianina breed cows
- ❖ 27 years of experience in the application and research of sustainable agricultural practices
- ❖ We strive to produce vital food by experimenting with new sustainable agricultural techniques

We collaborate with:



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Our experience

- ❖ Our origins as a farming family date back to the second half of the 1800's from that point forward we became a benchmark in olive and tobacco agriculture. I am the fourth generation in the line of this farming family and after I obtained the diploma in agricultural sciences I dedicated my time to create a multifunctional farm re-converting its land into organic and biodynamic, to produce healthier quality food.
- ❖ We have started to grow organic food in 1992 and in 2002 we have started our adventure with the biodynamic agriculture. In 2014 we have added the E.M. (Effective Micro-organism), in order to increase the soil fertility and the environmental sustainability of our soils.
- ❖ we want to create local and international alliances to develop and support new agricultural practices in Umbria, able to respect the environment and improve the quality of the soil and that of the food we produce.



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Organic and biodynamic Agriculture: a Ferment for Economics with a Human Face

- ▶ Everyone has to have something to eat and this food comes from the soil.
- ▶ The value of an economy must be in relation to the fertile soil according to the formula: (area of the economy divided by the number of people).
- ▶ If the economic value of an economy completely loses its relationship to this basic measure, then as a whole, it enters into a deficit balance; this economy is making debts, it is not sustainable.
- ▶ the overexploitation of nature, takes place socially as well, and also culturally and spiritually and in many human dimensions; this is the reason why today there is a kind of hypersensitivity regarding agriculture and nutrition.
- ▶ Farmers have a kind of guardian function in relation to nature; life should not belong to the economy, but rather the economy should serve life.



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taking responsibility between Farm Individuality and Global Economy

- ▶ How can I combine the material world with the spiritual reality in order to find a better basis for my practical actions in agriculture, in order to be able to act confidently, with self-consciousness and responsibility?
- ▶ “I believe that building the ‘farm organism’ and incorporating compost (which are the essential foundations in the biodynamic cultivation) can reach their full potential in weaving together the material (earthly) and cosmic (planetary) influences. The farmer’s spiritual development consists in working within these realms as participant, observer, and orchestrator.
- ▶ I feel I’m co-evolving with the farm as I develop the sensitivity to understand what is needed and what to do, abandoning the failures and creating new solutions to adapt to an ever-changing environment.”



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The two kinds of Economic Value Creation in farming from the biodynamic point of view

1. = work on nature: dealing with soil, plants, and animals is the beginning of economic life and creates economic value.
 2. = mind on work: the organisation of work in a purely rationalised way with a planned economic management of production of food (we are in the transition from digitalization to robotics) to arise the industrial capital
- ▶ Nature is being destroyed at the basis of life
 - ▶ Industrially produced food and nutrition cause diseases and obesity

The agricultural organism cannot exist if it is condemned to produce anonymous raw materials for the futures market



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Associative Economics: a medicine to bring humanity into farming.

- ▶ Agriculture as an inner attitude: the cultivation is directed at nature and towards the social organism with economic behaviour that does not usurp but cultivates and needs to be renewed in every period of time.
- ▶ In this sense, associative economics - and also other approaches to economics that go in this direction - may be seen as the possibility which can bring good measure and meaning into an economic activity.
- ▶ This would lead to a more humane economy. Farmers would not need to complain and to demand fair prices, but will have something to develop and to give that could act like a ferment for society and the economy as a whole.



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The Associative Zones

- ▶ They are a deliberate development of mutually respecting economic areas around a farm or for a whole region. This makes a statement that we want to and are able to build safety zones for a new, associative way of economic working into the wilderness of the market economy.
- ▶ An association is not a fixed social form, but rather a principle that can be realised in completely diverse ways, small or big, for a product or whole branches, for consumer goods or items of capital expenditure etc. What is important, is to bring the perspective of each entrepreneur into the common overview, to see and accept consumption as a regulatory factor, alongside production and trade, and to see economic life as a part and not as the whole of social life.
- ▶ Agriculture is then well advised to care for nature, on which it is based, to such an extent that added value can be created in the long term.



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